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# Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking Electronic System


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EASY

FAST

SECURE



To improve the delivery of its services and meet the ever-changing needs of America's plant and plant product exporters, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has created the Phytosanitary Certificate Issuance and Tracking (PCIT) system. This interactive, Web-based tool enables U.S. exporters to apply for phytosanitary certification online, schedule inspections, and print copies of their certificate. When using PCIT, customers can communicate securely over the Internet with county, State, and Federal "Authorized Certification Officials" (ACO), which aids in shipping billions of dollars in products each year.



# How To Register and Use PCIT

PCIT accounts are typically set up at the industry or company level with each industry/company managing its own group or individual user accounts. However, each PCIT user must have a Level 1 USDA eAuthentication account. USDA's eAuthentication is a system that enables individuals to obtain user identification accounts in order to access certain USDA Web applications and services online.

To register, simply access the PCIT Web site at <https://pcit.aphis.usda.gov/pcit/>. Click on the "Log In" button, which will bring you to USDA's eAuthentication site. Then, click on the "Create Account" link on the menu located on the left-hand side. Follow the instructions provided on the eAuthentication page to create an account.

If you have problems registering with USDA's eAuthentication site, please contact **eAuthHelpDesk@ftc.usda.gov** or call **1-800-457-3642**.

Once you have set up your eAuthentication account, proceed to log in. Follow the prompts to either:

- 1** Register your new industry account (also called "external organization"). The first user of an external account will also be the administrator and will need to set up future PCIT user accounts for the organization.
- 2** Join an existing industry account using a temporary PCIT user ID and password provided by the external organization administrator.

## An Award-Winning Innovation

PCIT was recognized by Government Computer News as one of the best Government information technology (IT) initiatives of 2008. That same year, PCIT was also named a Computerworld 21st Century Achievement Award Finalist. The Computerworld Honors Program recognizes the achievements of individuals and organizations who use IT to benefit society. And in 2007, InfoWorld named PCIT as an InfoWorld 100 Award recipient—the organization's highest honor. InfoWorld recognizes excellence in IT projects around the globe.



## What Our Users Say...

*"We love it, and our [employees] are very excited.*

*PCIT really works, and this is one of the best things that has happened at work in years."*

*"Submission of our applications on PCIT works like a dream."*





# Why Do I Need A Phytosanitary Certificate?

Phytosanitary certificates are often required by foreign countries to meet their requirements for the importation of plants and plant products. These certificates show that the commodities being shipped have been inspected by plant health officials prior to leaving the United States and meet the specific entry requirements of the importing country. If you plan to ship plants or plant products out of the United States, you will need to find out if a phytosanitary certificate is required prior to export.

## PCIT Benefits

PCIT offers a streamlined process to complete the phytosanitary certificate. Here are a few other key benefits of using PCIT:

**Convenient.** You can submit and track your applications online—anytime, anywhere.

**Fast.** PCIT lets you view and print copies of applications and issued certificates immediately.

**Easy.** PCIT's streamlined interface and templates make the application process simple and quick.

**Secure.** Using our digitally encrypted system, you can pay certificate fees online with a credit card or bank transfer<sup>1</sup>—and have peace of mind that your data is completely secure.

**Efficient.** With export data available electronically in a central location, plant health officials can respond swiftly and accurately to information requests from foreign trading partners—which means that held shipments can be released more quickly.

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<sup>1</sup> Checks are also accepted at duty stations.





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## Questions?

Contact the PCIT Helpdesk at 1-866-HLP-PCIT or e-mail [pcithelpdesk@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:pcithelpdesk@aphis.usda.gov).

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